AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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INSIST ON

Bartlett-Bacon bills being passed. Insist on knowing where your Representatives in Congress stand. You have a right to know.

HELP THE MINERS.

Local unions are urged to give prompt financial aid to the striking copper miners of Calumet.

STRIKE PROBES NEARING END

Hancock, Mich., March 7.—The miners have closed their case and have put up to the mining companies the duty of answering charges made by the miners' witnesses. In opening their side, attorneys for the operators objected to the Congressional Commission investigating alleged violations of the Michigan State constitution. The Commission heard the story of the deportation of President Moyer and Auditor Charles Tanner from the copper country by a mob on the night of December 26, when they were charged by with an automatic revolver," Tanner said, "and the others rushed on Moyer and bent him over nearly double." Tanner told how he and Moyer were dragged through the mud holes, through the streets of Hancock, and across the bridge to Houghton. Chairman Taylor said that the Commission had decided to devote one day in Chicago on the way back to Washington, when the strikers would have an opportunity to present any additional testimony.

Trinidad, Col., March 7.—The Congressional Commission has left this city for Walsenburg, where hearings will be continued. Gov. Ammons has declared recall from the strike zone of all members of the State militia, except the cavalry. This action was taken on the recommendation and pay the military bills, which have reached immense proportions and created intense interest throughout the State. Testimony before the Commission in this city brought out more gun-men methods. Superintendent Zeke Martin admitted that some of the deputies employed had criminal records as gun-men. Judge Northcutt, attorney for the operators, admitted that "the strikers in employing deputies in duty in the strike zone didn't want church members. He was looking for dead shots." William Kapelo, a miner, told of being in the Forbes tent colony on October 17 when a crowd of Baldwin-Felts gunmen and mine guards fired with a machine gun into the tents of the strikers. Mrs. C. H. Easley, of this city, told the Commission that her father was killed by a falling roof in the Primero mine in 1910. She said the family was never able to secure a settlement from the company and there was no record that a coroner's inquiry was ever held. A casket valued at $20, was the only compensation ever offered the family.

COAL PARLEY ENDS.

Philadelphia, March 7.—The joint conference of bituminus coal miners and operators of Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and Western Pennsylvania, held in this city for nearly three weeks, has adjourned sine die without coming to terms. Both sides maintained friendly relations, and the meetings were devoid of bitterness, even though the parties involved stoutly maintained their positions. The present contracts expire the last of this month, and at this writing President White has not announced his next move. It is believed he will shortly issue a call for a meeting of the Scale Committee of the mine workers to discuss the situation. This committee consists of eight members from each of the seventy-two districts in the four states. With the announcement of the conference's failure, the miners issued a statement in which they said: "The breaking off of the negotiations is a matter of concern, but the situation is not even serious." In some quarters the statement is made that another joint conference will be called.

NO CHANGE IN LABOR LAW.

Boston, March 7.—No change should be made in the new child labor law, in the opinion of the State Commission on Uniform Legislation, in its report to the next legislature. The commission declares "it is too early yet for the benefits of this humane legislation to be estimated completely. Already, as we are informed, several thousand children under sixteen are receiving the benefits of the eight-hour day. The most recent information obtainable indicates that the reduction in child labor by shortening their hours, and by putting children from dangerous and harmful occupations and by regulating trades that it affects, is a permanent value in conserving the strength of the young of Massachusetts."

LIFE'S VALUES ARE LOW.

Chicago, March 7.—"Today the cheapest thing in the world is human life," declared Rev. C. I. Schofield, of New York, before a Bible conference held in this city. The speaker compared the present day with the days of ancient Rome when gladiators slew one another before a frenzied populace. "We shudder at the stories of those cruelties," he said, "and then turn to our daily papers and read that 114 miners died in a year, and that our railroads kill from 15,000 to 18,000 every year and maim many more, and we don't care."

NEW SYSTEM FOR PORTO RICO.

Washington, March 7.—A new system of civil government for Porto Rico is proposed in a bill presented by United States Senator Shafroth. The bill would extend to the citizens of Porto Rico the provisions of the bill of rights and provide that a Porto Rican shall become a citizen of the United States by merely declaring his allegiance. The present council appointed by the President would be displaced by a senate and house to be elected by the people for terms of four years. Absolute veto power would be vested in the governor.

WAGE CUT BRINGS STRIKE.

Woodbridge, N. J., March 7.—Pressers of the Federal Terra Cotta Co. declare they were compelled to strike because of reductions which forced their wages below the $1.25 a day. Working conditions, also, were a factor in the walkout. The management had refused to meet a committee to adjust matters, and is now employing guards to protect their "free and independent" workers. President Butterworth, of the International Brick, Tile and Terra Cotta Workers' Alliance, is in the city and is aiding the strikers.

COURT REFUSES RELEASE.

Bridgeport, Conn., March 7.—Ex-President Mellen, of the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad, who was in the first skirmish in a trial on manslaughter charges as a result of the railroad wreck at Westport, Conn., October 13, in which eight persons were killed, Mellen's attorneys asked the Supreme Court to quash the warrant and discharge the prisoner, but Judge Tuttle denied the request.

FAVORS SEMI-MONTHLY PAY.

Columbia, S. C., March 7.—The State senate has approved a bill requiring railroads to pay their machine shop employes semi-monthly. As originally drafted the bill provided that manufacturing and textile corporations should pay their employes weekly, but this was stricken out by the senate committee. Senators have given notice that they will move to reinstate this section when the bill comes up for third reading.

ACTIVITIES IN BOSTON.

Boston, March 7.—The Telephone Operators' union has been organized, and operators and supervisors promoted in the order of their seniority. Favoritism and advancement will no longer be charged. The Central Labor union favors a bill in the state legislature intended to regulate the prospering of strike breakers during industrial trouble. A bill providing for state supervision of all labor agencies is also favored. The engineers report a general acceptance of their new wage scale. Strikes have occurred in only a few instances. The Teamsters Joint Council is conferring with the Board of Commissioners of the municipal system in vogue in the various city departments. The unionists say that aliens are employed and discrimination against citizens is shown. All differences between Boston theatrical managers and the Stage Employes' union are reported to have been amicably settled. The United Garment Workers' unions are supporting seventy-five custom tailors locked out by the Boston Tailoring company. The Mill, Wagon Drivers' union has decided to establish a sick and accident benefit fund. Boston and Brighton cooks' house employes, affiliated to the A. F. of L., have drawn up a scale of wages. Master Bakers of England Bakers are active in their opposition to the bread trust that inaugurated its campaign in this section. Officers of the Order of Railroad Telegraphers are holding conferences with the Boston & Maine Railway system on the question of wages for towermen and train dispatchers.

A CANADIAN PROTEST.

Hamilton, Ontario, March 7.—The executive board of the local Trades and Labor Council, to which was referred the report of the Ontario Commission, has adopted the following resolutions at the last meeting, which were unanimously adopted: "We find that the exploitation and misrepresentation being used in European countries to induce immigration into Canada, are detrimental to organized labor in Canada. We find that people are being induced to immigrate through the misrepresentation being used by agents of steamship, railway and realty companies, part of the commission's fee to it, and that for this reason this council goes on record as being opposed to it, and will ask all labor councils throughout the Dominion to submit letters of protest to the premier of Ontario and the Dominion, to E. N. Verville, the labor member of Parliament from Maisonneuve, and to Ramsay MacDonald, the secretary of the British Labor party, of England, in an effort to stop the misrepresentations being used."

PERMITS CONVICTS TO TALK.

Columbus, Ohio, March 7.—Warden Thomas of the state penitentiary has established several innovations recently. Talking under penalty of solitude is not to each other while working has shattered all ideals of prison management. The new rule abolishes the silent zone of the strictest in the penitentiary, and has been maintained on the theory that if men were allowed to converse, they would plot to escape. Warden Thomas declared in an interview that intimidating methods in Ohio's big penal institution, and shows that the conduct of the prisoners is the best indication that humane ideas are more successful than repressive measures.

MINE SAFETY LAW IS UPHELD.

Washington, March 7.—The United States Supreme Court has upheld the Pennsylvania "mine safety" law, which requires coal operators to leave pillars of coal to prevent caving in. The law provides that owners of adjoining coal properties must mine their coal so as to leave coal pillars along adjoining property as supports for the roof to protect miners in case of withdrawal of pillars. The law gives the State Mine Inspector authority to prescribe the size and strength of the pillars.

A MONSTER PARADE.

Philadelphia, Pa., March 7.—The committee in charge of the "Trade Union Forward" movement announces that when the A. F. of L. convention convenes next November the largest parade of organized workers ever held on this continent will take place in honor of the event. The committee predicts that 150,000 working men and women will be in line.

WILL ENFORCE WAGE SCALE.

Reading, Pa., March 7.—At a meeting of representatives of the stonemasons' unions of the First and Ninth internal revenue districts it was decided to submit to these unions a scale of prices calling strikes in localities where the new wage rate is not paid. In many of the cities employers are paying the $1 per 1,000 increase.

TEAMSTERS UP AND DOING.

Minneapolis, March 7.—Teamsters in this city have reduced their initiation fee and started a campaign to enroll 4,000 eligible members. The union has presented its new wage rate to the employers. The principle provides for 32½ cents an hour, and officers believe it will be paid with little opposition.

ASK HIGHER WAGES.

Tacoma, Wash., March 7.—A demand for a general increase in wages has been made to the Northern Pacific railroad by the conference committee, through their respective brotherhoods.

CAN'T HAMPER PARCEL POST

Washington, March 7.—Partisan lines were broken in the United States senate when the proposition to limit the power of the postmaster general in the parcel post matters was defeated, after a three days' fight. The post office committee favored the bill to take from the postmaster general the power to reduce rates and extend zones without first getting permission from congress. Friends of the parcel post as now conducted opposed this suggestion and declared it would make it impossible to make further weight increases or other benefits to the people as a result of congressional investigation. Another amendment provided that no packages of more than fifty pounds should be carried unless the Interstate Commerce Commission should decide the rates representing the cost of service. This, also, was defeated. The amendment increased the weight limit to fifty pounds, decreased rates and eliminated the first and third-zone zone. Last summer, he was subjected to severe criticism by certain senators, but these views have not been sustained.

ASBESTOS WORKERS GAIN.

Toronto, March 7.—The Asbestos Workers of this city have signed agreements with the leading firms which provide for better working conditio

HAS A WIDE VIEWPOINT.

New York, March 7.—The editor of The American Hebrew published on March 6 views by the following editorial he has the ability to acquire the other fellow's viewpoint, a necessary quality in all that's charged. The Central Labor union favors a bill in the state legislature intended to regulate the prospering of strike breakers during industrial trouble. A bill providing for state supervision of all labor agencies is also favored. The engineers report a general acceptance of their new wage scale. Strikes have occurred in only a few instances. The Teamsters Joint Council is conferring with the Board of Commissioners of the municipal system in vogue in the various city departments. The unionists say that aliens are employed and discrimination against citizens is shown. All differences between Boston theatrical managers and the Stage Employes' union are reported to have been amicably settled. The United Garment Workers' unions are supporting seventy-five custom tailors locked out by the Boston Tailoring company. The Mill, Wagon Drivers' union has decided to establish a sick and accident benefit fund. Boston and Brighton cooks' house employes, affiliated to the A. F. of L., have drawn up a scale of wages. Master Bakers of England Bakers are active in their opposition to the bread trust that inaugurated its campaign in this section. Officers of the Order of Railroad Telegraphers are holding conferences with the Boston & Maine Railway system on the question of wages for towermen and train dispatchers.

JUSTICE WRIGHT ON GRILL

His Character as a Citizen and Jurist Involved.

TWENTY-FOUR CHARGES FILED

Washington Banker Puts in Limelight Man Who Sentenced Three Unionists to Jail.

Washington, March 7.—Charges involving the character as a citizen and as an occupant of the bench have been filed against Justice Wright, of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia, by Wade H. Cooper, president of large banking institutions in this city. The charges, twenty-four in number, declare Justice Wright guilty of both private and official misconduct, and numerous incidents are alleged where this official is declared to have used his position for private gain. In his petition President Wilson, Mr. Cooper says: "I am a banker, and, therefore, naturally conservative, and would not make a statement unless I thought the facts would support it. I do not hesitate to say that the conduct of this judge is a disgrace to the judiciary and the nation and he should be promptly impeached." Mr. Cooper insists that the facts he has gathered against Justice Wright has no regard for the dignity of his position; that he accepts favors from attorneys practicing before him; that street railway attorneys have endorsed his notes for several hundred dollars while defending their clients in his court; that he threatened a certain attorney with a jail sentence unless a note was accordingly been, and that he has since paid $12,000.00 in the four years. In mineral waste the national loss is estimated to be not less than $100,000,000. This enormous loss is considered as national for the reason that the mineral products of the country, considered as the basis of modern commerce, are used by the people of all the states, regardless of their sources.

HINDU SAILORS DESERT POSTS.

Philadelphia, March 7.—Terror-stricken at the sight of bodies of their fellows, the crew of the German steamship Ockenfels on an strike in a gale off the New foundland banks and for four days the officers and stewards were forced to navigate the vessel as best they could into this port while fifty-two East Indian sailors hid in the engine-room and stoke hold. They refused to leave their posts, unable to the stokers and boilers, and neither coaxing nor threats could induce them to come out. Food was given on deck. They were denied all food in hopes that this would bring them back. But they starved without a murmur rather than go on deck. The shorthanded crew were compelled to stand long watches in the strictest in the penitentiary, and has been maintained on the theory that if men were allowed to converse, they would plot to escape. Warden Thomas declared in an interview that intimidating methods in Ohio's big penal institution, and shows that the conduct of the prisoners is the best indication that humane ideas are more successful than repressive measures.

EASY LOANS FOR FARMERS.

Albany, March 7.—In line with the recommendation of Governor Glynn, a bill providing for the establishment by the state legislature declaring that laws should be enacted which would provide ample funds in banks to furnish opportunities for loans to farmers. The resolution further calls for laws to facilitate the procuring of proper security by any person engaged in agriculture who is found in such thrifty circumstances though of scanty means; provide for a low rate of interest on such loans, and provide for the postponement of the payments possible limit the forced sale of property pledged or mortgaged by a farmer to secure a loan which he may desire to repay through circumstances beyond his control."

MACHINISTS WIN STRIKE.

San Francisco, March 7.—Machinists employed in a local garage have returned to work. The strike was caused by the employer deducting from the wages of his machinists amounts which he claimed he was entitled to under the old industrial insurance, recently provided for by state law. The machinists regarded this as a violation of the terms of the working agreement. The employer has agreed to pay the cost of insuring his employes, provided the law is not passed at the last session of the state legislature.

A SUCCESSFUL MEETING.

South Framingham, Mass., March 7.—The annual meeting of the Boot and Shoe Workers of Massachusetts was well attended and was the most successful in the history of the branch. One hundred delegates were in attendance. The most important matters discussed were those referring to a uniform state wage, dues and initiation fees, the workmen's compensation law and the wages scale and eight-hour law on all state work. The next convention will be held in North Adams.

FORM NEW CENTRAL BODY.

Brownwood, Tex., March 7. Trade unionists in this city are forming a central body, affiliated to the A. F. of L. A new Barbers' union has been installed and the carpenters are holding to their eight-hour day and the wage scale and working conditions. Organizers are busy few contractors who decline to pay the increased rates.

WIRE MEN WANT MORE.

Buffalo, March 7.—President Frank McNulty is in the city aiding the Electrical Workers in their efforts to secure a new wage scale, which will go into effect beginning the first of May. The contractors have offered to pay $3.75 from May to October, and $3.50 during the remaining part of the year.

STUDY SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Philadelphia, March 7.—The Inter-Church Federation has plans for a study of a most exhaustive study of social and economic conditions in this city. Co-operation of the churches will be sought from each craft from each railroad system.

TIMBER MEN LOCKED OUT.

Everett, Wash., March 7.—In an effort to force the United States Timber and International Union of Shingle Weavers, Sawmill Workers and Woodsmen, the Robinson Manufacturing company has discharged many of its union Timber Workers, and the firm is now facing vigorous opposition. Other mills have pledged their moral and financial support to the Robinson plant, and declare they will close their mills if necessary until the struck concern is operated regularly under the nonunion plan. The Timber Workers are not alarmed at these threats, and are holding enthusiastic meetings and securing large lists of memberships in their efforts to secure a minimum wage and an eight-hour day. It is this declaration that has driven the other mills to the support of the Robinson company, which pleads long and loud for "the right to run its own business."

ATTACK "TIPPING" TRUST.

Chicago, March 7.—Striking waitresses in this city are denouncing the "tipping" trust that handles all gratuities given the girls in many restaurants. Before the Federation of Labor, Carrie Alexander, head of the Waitresses' union, declared the "tipping" trust was one of the chief means of keeping down wages of the waiting employes. "Employers have forced the girls to depend on the tips for their salaries," declared Miss Alexander. "The wages are too low and the public is expected to make up in tips the difference between the wages paid the employes and a living wage. We hope the system will be abolished, for the persons who receive tips don't keep the money. The 'tipping' trust takes it away from them. In investigations of the girls are forced to wear high necked waists with tight collars so they can't slip the dimes on the inside."

WOMEN'S LAW IS LEGAL.

Washington, March 7.—The United States Supreme Court has ruled that the Oregon law limiting the hours labor of women, is legal. The law declares that no woman shall work more than nine hours a day in any factory or in any laundry. The fight has been carried over a period of three years, and was the result of a movement started by Attorney General Hoagan and the attorney for the Oregon Manufacturers' association to test the law. A milliner in Columbus worked one of her employes 55 hours in one week and was held in technical custody. According to Ohio officials the decision affects 90,000 women in workshops and factories alone and over 25,000 in mercantile establishments who come under the law, which is now declared legal by the highest court in the land.

INVESTIGATING PRISON LABOR.

Stillwater, Minn., March 7.—In their campaign against the contract labor system in the penitentiary, members of the Minnesota State Federation of Labor visited the penitentiary at this city for the purpose of investigating the methods of employing the inmates. It is believed the committee has practically agreed upon the terms to utilize convict labor for the clearing of state lands. One hundred convicts will be put to work on every eighty-acre tract and to sell the land direct to settlers. The committee has also under consideration a plan for the annual convention of the State Federation.

NEWS FROM CANTON.

Canton, Ohio, March 7.—The Carpenters' local is preparing to put into effect their new wage scale that calls for a minimum of $3.50 per day. The Retail Clerks' union are forming a local. The recently organized union of Retail Clerks is making rapid progress. At the last meeting fifty new members were obligated, and nearly 100 are now enrolled. The Bell telephone company is being generously supported by Canton unionists in their efforts to secure a new franchise. The unions of building craftsmen are favoring a Building Trades Council. The "Forward" movement is now in full swing.

MET A SOUTHERN "FROST."

Jacksonville, Fla., March 7.—When Detective Burns reached the hall in this city where he was billed to deliver a lecture, the "great" sleuth was greeted by exactly four persons, and two of them were representatives of the concern that has his tour in charge. The speaker left the city in disgust, refusing to let the story get to life. On the same night, at another theater, an actress who has figured prominently in the Lola Weber divorce case, and those Jacksonville citizens who were notoriously seekers patronized the girl.

OPPOSE STATE POLL TAX.

Houston, Tex., March 7.—Declaring that the state poll tax is a violation in spirit, if not in fact, of the Fifteenth amendment to the Constitution of the United States, the Typographical union has passed resolutions in opposition to the candidate who refuses to pay the poll tax. Texas unionists are urged to take similar action and "wage a relentless warfare against the state and municipal governments which are violating the constitutional right of a free vote be repealed."

SHORTER HOURS FIRST.

Holyoke, Mass., March 7.—At a large meeting of the unions of this city it was decided that the eight-hour movement was more important at the present time than the question of wages, as four of the thirty-one Holyoke mills have not yet adopted the nine-hour system, and the attitude of these concerns is a constant menace to the firm establishment of the shorter workday. It was decided that every effort should be made to place all the mills on the same basis.

WANT SHORTER HOURS.

Erie, Penn., March 7.—The Carpenters and Joiners' District Council of this city is preparing to present their new wage scale to local contractors and employers. The schedule calls for forty-five cents an hour and for a forty-eight hour week, with time and a half for overtime work and double on holidays, when double time is asked.

PAY DELAYED, CARMEN STRIKE.

Pittsburgh, March 7.—Charging that the company has not paid them since Christmas, conductors and motormen on the Pittsburgh, McKeesport and West Homestead Railway company's trolley line are on strike. The line runs from McKeesport to Homestead and is now in the hands of a receiver.

SIGN FISHERS' CONTRACT.

San Francisco, March 7.—A new agreement carrying wage increases and bettering working conditions has been signed by the Alaska Fishermen's union and the Alaska Packers' association.

MACHINIST IS CAUSTIC.

Washington, March 7. — The House Labor committee is of the opinion that it is necessary to make a brick or a mattress is comparable with that required in making a Springfield rifle, a rapid-fire machine gun. This query was made by President Alfiss, of the Government Employes' Machinists, No. 44, who urged the passage of a bill introduced by Representative Maher which provides the government mechanics' wage scale to $4.40 for first class, $4.08 for second class, $3.76 for third class, and $3.44 for fourth class. The bill would mean an average increase to Washington navy yard mechanics of 8 cents a day. Other yards and shops would be also benefited. A wage board fixes rates for government employes in shops and navy yards, and the workers have so far failed to have a laboring man placed on this board. President Alfiss told the committee that the naval officers, composing the board, do not have the same attitude toward laboring men that they would have if they were in closer touch with laboring conditions. He said that the wage board collects its data in some instances from concerns which have not the slightest similarity to government yards and arsenals. One of the shops furnishing information is a mattress factory, another operates a brick yard, and another made doors.

IMPORTANT CONFERENCE.

Memphis, Tenn., March 7.—Secretary Tyson of Hamlen, of the Southern Conference on Woman and Child Labor, announces that the next meeting of the conference will be held in New Orleans Friday, March 20, and that indications point to a large attendance. Labor unions are selecting representatives to be present. Much progress has been made since the last meeting in the state to better the conditions of working women and to abolish child labor. The Tennessee legislature has created its laws and has provided better methods of enforcement, and the Mississippi legislature has just passed a law providing for a factory inspector to see to the enforcement of the laws in that state. In this work the National Consumers' League of Women and Child Labor is taking an active part and organized work among the women is generously represented at the New Orleans meeting as is possible.

LIMIT SERVANTS' HOURS.

Philadelphia, March 7.—Regulating the hours and working conditions of cooks, nursemaids, and other domestic servants, in addition to the eight-hour day now protected by legislation, was urged by State Commissioner of Labor Lewis Lapsley at a meeting of the State Industrial Commission in this city. Trade unionists, manufacturers, and representatives of various societies interested in child and woman labor legislation were in attendance. Those present offered suggestions to secure the adoption of further remedial legislation for female workers and against child labor.

CARMEN GET INCREASE.

Des Moines, Iowa, March 7.—The Street Carmen of this city have signed an agreement with the local that gives hour increase and improved working conditions. Overtime has been advanced on Sunday work, and motormen and line drivers will receive time and one-half. Meals and lay-over time will be allowed to be given men on one-man plows. The minimum wage has been established at $60 a month. The agreement has provided the Carmen it will not oppose the insertion in the new franchise of a clause whereby the provisions of the arbitration agreement will continue in force during the life of the franchise.

TO ESTABLISH MINIMUM WAGE.

Baltimore, March 7.—The Baltimore Federation of Labor is supporting a bill that will be presented to the state legislature at this session, providing for the creation of a commission to establish minimum wages for women and children in certain industries. The bill will give the commission to make other rules and regulations, and in case any female or minor is unable to earn the rate fixed the commission shall be given to work at a lower rate.

WILL ACT TOGETHER.

Seattle, March 7.—The Journeymen Tailors and the Ladies' Garment Workers' locals in this city are discussing the organization of a council at which the workers that united action may be taken on matters of interest. Preliminary meetings have been held, and the Ladies' Garment Workers have been invited to join in this federated movement, which recently formed by the American Federation of Labor.

FOUGHT FOR FREE TEXT BOOKS.

Cincinnati, March 7.—A public school text book commission, of which Joseph Heberle is proposed in this city, and who did quite a service in legislating than any other one person. Unionists and their sympathizers in this city have erected a drinking fountain for animals in his honor.

TINNERS RAISE WAGES.

Bloomington, Ill., March 7.—Sheet Metal Workers union, No. 18, and the Master Tinners' association have signed an agreement that calls for a 5 cent per hour increase, to take effect April 6.

SEIZURE OF MAIL UNLAWFUL

Washington, March 7.—The United States Supreme Court has unanimously held that it is illegal for a deputy marshal to seize letters or papers of a person charged with crime and use them to convict the accused. The decision is said to be one is properly armed with a search warrant. The decision was made in the case of Burton W. Weeks, a United States express messenger, who was charged with using the mails to further an illegal lottery. He was arrested at a railroad station by one group of policemen, while another group searched his home without a warrant. The court held this action illegal and a new trial for Weeks was granted. The decision is regarded as one of the most important constitutional guarantees ever violated. The court also held that a citizen may prevent private papers which have been unlawfully obtained from him from being used as evidence at his trial. This he can do by going into court before the trial and demanding their return. It is declared that criminal prosecutions in the United States may be materially facilitated by this decision, which marks the end of prosecuting officials seizing papers without authority and using them against persons accused of crime. This decision also reverses a former ruling made in the case of a New York gambler, where it was held that the court was not compelled to question a witness as to how he had obtained possession of papers, but would admit them as evidence, regardless of how they were secured.

COMPENSATION LAW UPHELD

Waco, Tex., March 7.—If it is legal to tax owners of dogs to create a fund to pay for the destruction of dogs, Judge McClendon of the Seventeenth district court, can see no reason why the recently enacted compensation act should not be classed as good law. This was the first time a court passed on the legality of the law, and the case was watched with interest. Judge McClendon holds that the several defenses of the employer, known as the "fellow-servant" rule, "contributory negligence," and "assumed risk," are court-made, or common law doctrines, and not constitutional entities, and the legislature may change or do away with them altogether as defenses. That very thing has been done and approved by the courts in this and many other states. The court further holds that the state has the power to regulate industries for the economic welfare of the community by levying a tax, in the form of an insurance, upon the same for the benefit of the employes injured in their employ. This comes under the police powers. Judge McClendon agreed that the law was a new departure for Texas, but said that it was not antagonistic to the federal or state constitution, as it is based upon the proposition "that the business which creates risks for life shall immediately upon the employe, who is almost invariably unable to bear it, and ultimately upon the community which is taxed for the support of the indigent, and that our present system is uncertain, unscientific, and wasteful, and fosters a spirit of antagonism between the employer and the employe, which it is to the interest of the state to remove."

TO VOTE ON NEW LAWS.

Olympia, Wash., March 7.—The State Federation of Labor, State Grange, Farmers' union and the Direct Legislation leacue are acting jointly to secure the adoption of seven new pieces of legislation, ultimately upon the compensation law. An active campaign is now being conducted to secure the necessary signers to have these measures placed before the voters this fall. The proposed laws are: To prevent fraud in the sale of lands, stocks and bonds; to abolish useless and expensive state bureaus; to make it unlawful for employers not furnishing a worker employment (aimed at employment bureaus); to amend workmen's compensation act so as to provide medical and hospital treatment; to provide for road work by convicts, who shall be paid 50 cents a day; to provide for a greater share of the profits of the fish industry for men in state-owned waters and on state-owned land to be placed in the state treasury; to systematize the road system of the state. It will be necessary to secure 32,000 signatures to place each of these proposals on the ballot.

FAVOR OLD-AGE PENSIONS.

Washington, March 7.—In introducing a joint resolution providing for the appointment by the President of a commission to investigate old age pensions, Congressman Reilly, of Connecticut, said: "The matters of this kind the United States should look to." Follow if a general pension system is adopted by the nations of the state, it will be eventually, nothing will be lost, as the aged who are unable to take care of themselves will be taken care of in one way or another by either public or private charity institutions. I have always considered that pensions for the aged employes, and the more I study the question the more I am convinced that the time for the adoption of this reform is reached a certain age, say sixty-five or seventy years, should be pensioned at a moderate rate."

SICK WORKERS CARED FOR.

Columbus, Ohio, March 7.—The State Liability Board of Awards continues to apply liberal interpretations to the new workmen's compensation law. It has ruled that where workmen are idle because of the strikes they are not employed from the injury of first instance they are entitled to compensation. This decision has been made in the case of a carpenter who had was struck by a piece of wood while operating a saw. No attention was paid to the effect that the strike of the woodworking set in. The worker was awarded pay while ill, and his hospital and physician's bills were paid.

CARMEN GET WAGE INCREASE.

Terre Haute, Ind., March 7.—An agreement between the street car company and its employes has been reached. Wages have been advanced from 1 to 2 cents an hour, according to length of service. The agreement runs for three years. The differences between the company and its employes have been settled by the creation of a State Public Service Commission for the past several weeks. Prior to this time the company refused to allow Judge Anderson to issue an injunction restraining the men from striking.

SAYS CONGRESS MUST ACT.

Sacramento, March 7.—Transportation companies must provide special low fares for laborers so as to make it possible for them to get to the point where he is most needed is one of the suggestions in the report of Commissioner Lapsley of the California Industrial Accident Board. He believes it will be necessary for congress to create a national system of public employment bureaus through which authorities would be informed where there is a shortage and a surplus of labor and where there is a surplus of employment.

ACTIVE IN NEW MEXICO.

Albuquerque, N. Mex., March 7.—The recently organized Brewery Workers' union has secured a contract with employers that provides for the eight-hour day and a reduction of working hours. The barbers have shortened their working hours and secured a pay. Most of the unions in this section have affiliated with the State Federation of Labor. The Allied Printing Pressmen, Retail Clerks, and Hotel and Restaurant Employes are under way.

STRIKE HELD IN ABEYANCE.

Portland, Ore., March 7.—Members of the Order of Railroad Telegraphers, employed by the Southern Pacific, Harriman and Railroad company, have approved a strike proposition by a large majority, but the strike order will be held in abeyance until representatives of the federal government attempt to mediate the differences of the workers for better conditions.

ELECTED TO HIGH OFFICE.

Albany, March 7.—Homer D. Call, general secretary-treasurer of the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen, and first vice president of the New York State Federation of Labor, was elected state treasurer of the state of New York by the legislature in joint ses